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Partnerships in Action

Keeping governments, communities and residents informed and involved



Alvin B. Jackson, Jr.

Balancing and improving water and land-related resources within a multi-county area is a daily challenge that requires active information-exchange, open dialogue and effective partnerships with other governments, local communities, the media and the public. At the South Florida Water Management District, that crucial mission-support element is guided by Alvin B. Jackson, Jr. – Deputy Executive Director for Government & Public Affairs.

People recognize and respect city and county borders. Water does not. That is why Florida's institution of regional water management continues to be viewed as a model for other areas of the country.

What have we learned? That intergovernmental communication, cooperation and coordination are vital to successfully meeting the water resource needs of our communities. That the region's mosaic of people and cultures must be aware of and informed on water management decisions through accurate, one-on-one and mass media communication. And that issues and concerns are best resolved through

collaborative problem-solving and mutually beneficial partnerships.

Alvin Jackson has been tasked with fulfilling this critical responsibility and he is a man on a mission. "We are committed to creating a stronger, more accessible presence with our varied and diverse publics," Jackson said. "Through our expanded efforts, we constantly strive to actively engage more and more of our communities and organizations; our counties and municipalities; and the general public in water management matters."

Over the years, the role of water management districts has broadened and evolved into that of facilitator and implementer – bringing the key players to the table to develop workable solutions and funding options, and

helping secure the resources needed to put recommendations into action.

"Partnerships are the hallmark of water management district activities," Jackson said. "Direct links and strong working relationships with local officials, organizations, community leaders, and the media allow us to share and utilize our knowledge, expertise and resources as we work together to carry out our stewardship obligations."

Actions speak louder than words, as the saying goes. Throughout the pages of this issue of WaterMatters, you'll get a glimpse of the variety of local partnerships in action – some in your own neighborhood.

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